



McPolin Elementary School Weekly Office Updates  
Wednesday, March 31st, 2021

Dear parents and caregivers,

The last day of March 2021! Each month is a new milestone and celebration. A confirmation that we can do hard things as a school and school district. A further confirmation that honoring our All for One and One for ALL theme works. I also feel that WE are a safer, more trusting, and more inclusive school community than ever before. Our goal of using this COVID pandemic crisis as an opportunity to use open and honest communication to build a stronger relationship amongst all stakeholders is working.

With all of that said, contrary to everyone's hopes and dreams, this COVID pandemic is NOT over. As much as we would like all of the many safety activities and structures to go away, the easy message from me as the principal of our amazing school is – NOT YET! I know there are messages and decisions being shared that suggest that wearing masks is no longer necessary. Based on HB294 and district leadership decisions, masks and/or face coverings will continue to be required in schools and on school property through the end of summer school on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Furthermore, all of the other safety measures including distancing of 6 feet as a guideline, handwashing, nightly sanitizing, and so on will continue right through the end of the year. Staying strong through the end is not the easy choice but it is the best choice for everyone.

I share this strong message as we leave for an extended break for an important and purposeful reason, safety. As I messaged prior to our February break, as we take advantage of next week to enjoy and relax, we need to be mindful of our choices and who we are with. We have proven we have the ability to maintain a safe school environment. The negative Covid impacts we have seen have involved choices made outside of school that were brought into the school environment. I encourage and support everyone taking full advantage of their time off next week. I further encourage everyone to take the necessary precautions to make sure as we return, we do so safely and with the resolve of not bringing a possible virus exposure back to school. As I have said all year, if in doubt, stay out. Even better, if in doubt, go get tested and wait for the results. As a reminder, if any member of a family has symptoms or is tested, all family members need to quarantine at home until test results are confirmed or symptoms subside.

WOW! That was a strong message Mr. Ed. Yes, it was and I welcome all questions or concerns. I take my responsibility and role as principal to be the voice to ensure as best as possible the safety of all who enter our school whether we are experiencing a pandemic or not. I would rather err on the side of caution than have to manage an issue related to the health and safety of on of our school community members. I know I share that concern with every one of you.

I started this message celebrating what we have accomplished together. I know through open communication and a focus on safe, trusting relationships, we have accomplished what none of us thought was possible for 138 "perfect" school days. If a situation occurs involving COVID as we return, please contact the school immediately. The sooner we know, the quicker we can limit the impact and can initiate the proper procedures.

Enjoy your Spring Break. We are amazing and we continue to be the BEST elementary school "IN" Park City. We Got This.

Sincerely,

Bob Edmiston

Upcoming events:

- Spring Break – April 5<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup>